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Dedication

AUSTIN BLAQUIÈRE 1923–1993

It is with deep sadness that I must inform you of the unexpected death of Austin Blaquièrre, Professor at the University of Paris VII and a long-time member of the Organizing Committee of the workshops of the Bellman Continuum.

Austin Blaquièrre was born in December, 1923 in Nîmes, France, and died in April, 1993, but a few months short of his seventieth birthday. He was educated at the Ecole Normal Supérieure de Saint Cloud and at the University of Paris from which he received the Doctorate in Physical Sciences in 1953 and the Doctorate in Mathematical Sciences in 1957. He joined the faculty of the University of Paris VII in 1961 and rose to the rank of Professeur Titulaire Classe Exceptionnelle. Prior to his appointment to the Paris faculty, he held professorships at various other schools in Beauvais, Bordeaux and Paris; he was also a visiting professor at the University of California at Berkeley in 1964 and 1967.

Austin Blaquièrre's research interests and contributions spanned an astounding range of topics including nonlinear differential equations, nuclear reactor theory, electronics, nuclear physics, optimal control, differential games, vector-valued optimization, and, since the mid-sixties, quantum and relativistic mechanics. His contributions are memorialized in over 120 publications in major archival journals and in ten books.

Austin Blaquièrre's work is distinguished not only by its breadth but especially by its depth. He eschewed trivialities and concentrated his great talents on the investigation of fundamental problems which he treated with the rigor so typical of the best French tradition. For his contributions, he was honored by his peers, most recently by the Prix Charles-Louis de SAULSES de FREYCINET of the French Academy of Sciences. This year, the Sixth Workshop on Dynamics and Control is being held in Vienna in his honor. He was also an active member of the scientific community, organizing and chairing many meetings and symposia. He was a member of the Scientific Council of the International Center of Mechanical Sciences, and on the editorial boards of the *International Journal of Nonlinear Mechanics* and of *Dynamics and Control*.

In addition to his scientific accomplishments, Austin Blaquièrre was a talented painter. His paintings and drawings were exhibited by various galleries in Paris, Warsaw and Oslo.

On a personal note, allow me to mention that Austin was not only a dear friend, but a valued colleague whose deep understanding of and rigorous approach to problems of mutual interest provided me with inspiration over more than thirty years and into the future.

Austin Blaquièrre is survived by his wife Paulette, daughter Noelle and son Marc, together with their families. To them we offer our sincere condolences.

George Leitmann
Berkeley, California